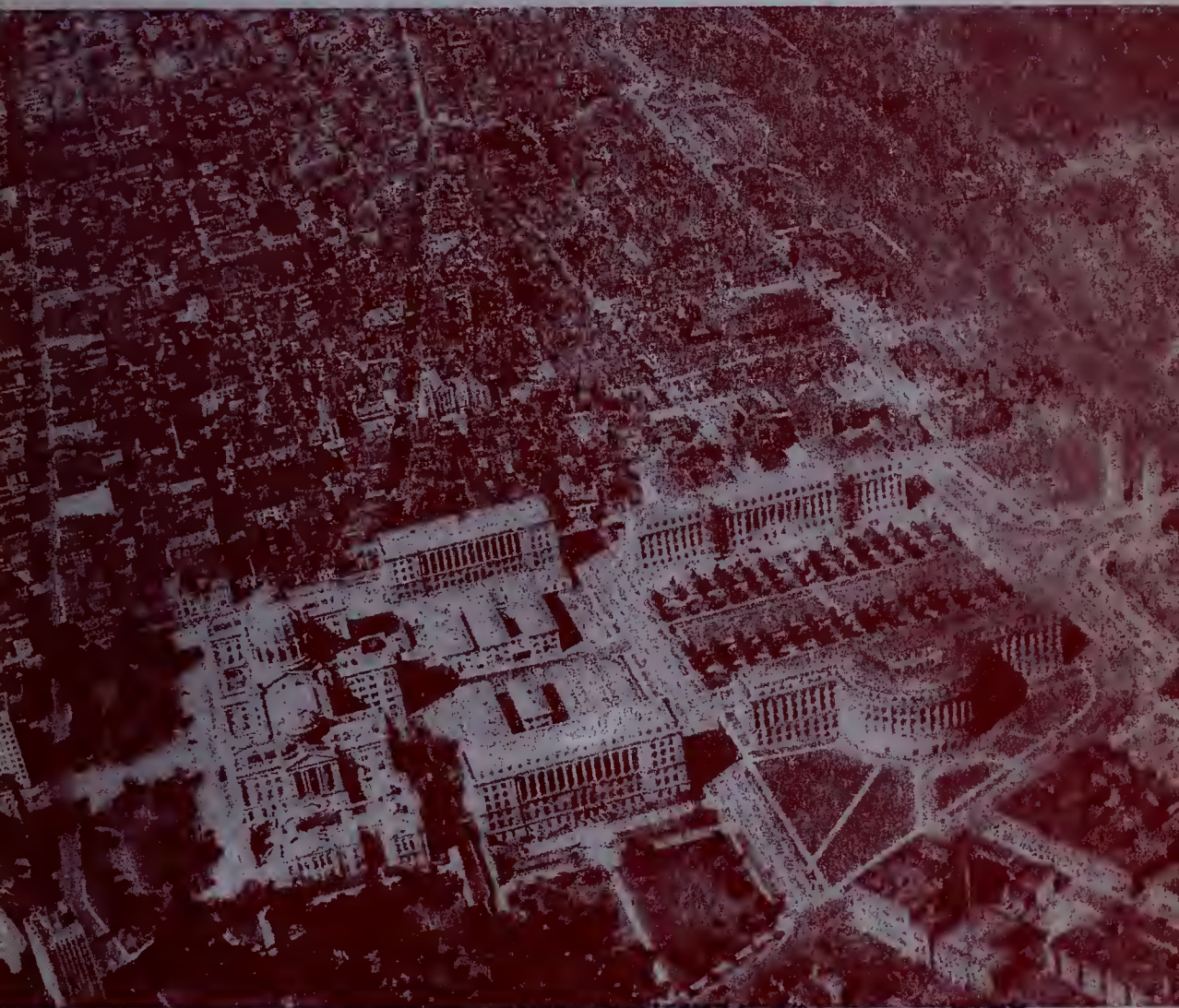


no. 15

The New FINANCE Building

Bulletin 15



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The New
FINANCE
Building

Bulletin 15

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG, 1939

LESTER K. ADE *Superintendent*

FOREWORD

The dedication of the New Finance Building marks the completion of the final unit of the group projected in the Brunner Plan of 1916. This plan provided for the erection of a Capitol group which would contribute to the beauty of the capital city and would complement the architectural features of the Capitol itself.

The inclusion of a finance building in the original plan is supremely fitting, for important aspects of political life rest upon the financial structure of State and Nation. Buildings are the monuments which mark the progress and growth of a people and the New Finance Building is symbolic of the aims and achievements of a free, enlightened, and industrious citizenry. The dedication of the building to the service of the Commonwealth establishes a precedent in the economic advancement of the State, and forms another important milestone in Pennsylvania's illustrious history.

This bulletin has been prepared before the completion of the New Finance Building, and is therefore neither a full nor a final treatment of the subject.

LESTER K. ADE

Superintendent of Public Instruction

April, 1939

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THE CAPITOL GROUP

The present Main Capitol Building, dedicated on October 4, 1906, was built to replace the original Capitol Building, which was destroyed by fire in 1897. It was expected that more buildings would eventually be required to house the various administrative departments of the Commonwealth, and additional land was bought for that purpose in 1911.

When plans were undertaken for future buildings in 1916, it was decided that the Capitol Building should constitute the main axis, with the proposed buildings grouped around it according to a definite design and purpose. This plan became known by the name of the architect, Arnold W. Brunner of New York, whose model for the layout was adopted.

The South Office Building, completed in 1921, became the first unit in the Brunner Plan. The North Office Building, dedicated in 1929, exactly balances the first unit and is almost identical with it in design and finish. The Education Building, finished in 1931, was the third to be constructed under the Plan. The New Finance Building, fourth and final unit, was completed in 1939, at a cost of \$4,650,000. The architects for the Education and New Finance Buildings were William Gehron and Sidney F. Ross of New York City.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Bridge, completed in 1930, is also included in the Capitol Group. This memorial bridge was constructed from funds appropriated jointly by the Commonwealth and by the City of Harrisburg.

FINANCE BUILDING

The Finance Building is situated in an area bounded by North Street on the north, Fisher Plaza on the east, Commonwealth Avenue on the west, and North Drive on the south. Its construction was made possible by appropriations from State and Federal funds. The Indiana limestone building, neo-classic in

design, is five stories high and is crowned with a broad hip roof. Two wings extending on the north side flank a plaza paved with granite flagstones. The structure houses the Auditor General's Department, the State Treasury Department, and the Department of Revenue.

At the main entrance, in the center of the south facade, is a loggia with six huge Ionic columns and a ceiling of terracotta in coffer design. Two check stones bear the inscriptions: Erected by the General State Authority and Opened to Public Service by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Anno Domini, MCMXXXIX, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Finance Building.

THE FRIEZE

The frieze, encircling the building at a point sixty feet above the ground level, is carved with inscriptions and decorated with medallions representing the economic life of the Commonwealth. Over the main entrance, beginning above the pier adjacent to the left end of the loggia, a group of eight medallions, alternating with seven maxims, combine to present a symbolic record of economic achievement together with a series of moral precepts for the guidance of the people. These are arranged as follows:

DISC—GEAR WHEEL OF INDUSTRY

Inscription

THE PUBLIC REVENUES ARE THE SUPPORTS
OF THE GENERAL WELFARE

DISC—OPEN BOOK WITH OAK LEAF

Inscription

PUBLIC RECORDS SHOULD BE TESTS AND
TESTAMENTS OF INTEGRITY

DISC—EAR OF CORN

Inscription

JUST FINANCE GIVES SINEW TO SOCIETY,
PROPERTY TO ENTERPRISE

DISC—DOVE WITH OLIVE BRANCH

Inscription

ALL PUBLIC SERVICE IS A TRUST GIVEN IN
FAITH AND ACCEPTED IN HONOR

DISC—SHIP IN FULL SAIL

Inscription

THE PUBLIC TREASURY IS THE REPOSITORY
OF THE PUBLIC POWER

DISC—BEE WITH WINGS SPREAD

Inscription

RESERVE IN TIME OF NEED, FRANCHISE IN
THE HOUR OF OPPORTUNITY

DISC—COVERED WAGON

Inscription

OPEN TO INSPECTION, SECURE FROM EVERY
SUSPICION

DISC—LOCK WITH TWO KEYS WITH
KEYSTONE-SHAPED HANDLES

On the frieze to the left of the loggia, running from the southwest corner of the building, is carved the maxim: CONFIDENCE OF MAN IN MAN IS THE FUNDAMENTAL SANCTION THAT UPHOLDS EVERY SECURE TITLE TO WEALTH. On the corresponding section of the frieze to the right of the loggia, ending at the southeast corner, is inscribed: THE FOUNDATIONS OF GENERAL PROSPERITY ARE LAID IN THE INDUSTRY AND INTEGRITY OF THE PEOPLE.

Beginning at this corner, the southeast, and continuing around the building, is a series of medallions which symbolize an industrial or historical aspect of each of the forty-eight incorporated cities of the Commonwealth.

<i>City</i>	<i>Medallion</i>	<i>Significance</i>
CHESTER	Boat	Shipbuilding
PHILADELPHIA	Liberty Bell	Independence, 1776
SCRANTON	Cogwheel	Industry (coal machinery)
EASTON	Bell	History
CARBONDALE	Monument, 1831	First coal mine
WILKES-BARRE	Bee Hive	Industry
PITTSTON	Shield Devise	Pitt coat-of-arms
NANTICOKE	Miner's Pick and Hat	Mining
HAZLETON	Electric Transformer	Power
ALLENTOWN	Tulip and Heart	Pennsylvania German Symbol
BETHLEHEM	Star and Trombone	Star of Bethlehem, Bach Festival
READING	Spinning Wheel	Manufacturing
COATESVILLE	Sheet Metal Roller	Steel Industry
LANCASTER	Plow and Sheaf of Tobacco	Agriculture
LEBANON	Tunnel Entrance	Oldest Tunnel in U. S., 1823
HARRISBURG	Capitol Dome	Capitol of Commonwealth
POTTSVILLE	Greek Cross	First Defenders' Emblem, 1861
LOCK HAVEN	Canal Locks	Early Commerce
WILLIAMSPORT	Saw Mill	Lumber Industry
YORK	County Court House	Old Blockade House
SUNBURY	Fort Augusta	Early History
ALTOONA	Locomotive and Horseshoe	Railroading and Horseshoe Curve
DUBOIS	Dump Car of Coal	Mining
CORRY	Railroad Crossing	Early Site of City

Over the North Entrance, which leads from the Plaza on North Street, the series is interrupted for a general treatment similar to that above the main entrance on the South. The four medallions and three quotations which compose this group are:

DISC—OWL WITH TORCH

Inscription

RESOLVE TO PERFORM WHAT YOU OUGHT,
PERFORM WHAT YOU RESOLVE

DISC—SCALES OF JUSTICE

Inscription

IMPARTIALITY IS THE LIFE OF JUSTICE AS
THAT IS OF GOVERNMENT—William Penn

DISC—EAGLE AND SHIELD

Inscription

SINCE THOU ART NOT SURE OF A MINUTE, THROW
NOT AWAY AN HOUR—Benjamin Franklin

DISC—HOUR GLASS

Again the frieze takes up its story of Pennsylvania's cities:

<i>City</i>	<i>Medallion</i>	<i>Significance</i>
OIL CITY	Oil Refinery	Oil Industry
FRANKLIN	Fort, 1868	History
BUTLER	Oil Derrick	Industry
CLAIRTON	Coal and By-products	Mining and Manufacture
FARRELL	Blast Furnace	Steel Mills
JOHNSTOWN	Canal Boat, 1889	Land-drawn, before Locks
GREENSBURG	Court House, 1773	First Court House
UNIONTOWN	Bee Hive, Coke Oven	Industry
CONNELLSVILLE	Coke Ovens	Industry

<i>City</i>	<i>Medallion</i>	<i>Significance</i>
JEANNETTE	Glass Blower	Glass Manufacture
BRADFORD	Oil Machinery	Oil Industry
TITUSVILLE	Old Drake Oil Well	Discovery of Oil, 1859
DUQUESNE	Bucket Pouring Molten Steel	Steel Industry
NEW KENSINGTON	Bucket of Heated Metal	Aluminum Industry
MCKEESPORT	Metal Tubing	Tube Industry
MONESSEN	Steel Shapes	Steel Industry
MONONGAHELA	Paddle Steamboat	Commeree, 1792
WASHINGTON	Classic Building	Entrance to Wash- ington and Jeffer- son College
BEAVER FALLS	Beaver at Falls	Symbolic
MEADVILLE	City Flag	Historie, 1788
ERIE	Perry's Flagship, 1813	Naval Victory
PITTSBURGH	Bloekhouse, 1754	Early History
NEW CASTLE	Tin Plate Machine	Manufacturing
SHARON	Blast Furnace	Steel Industry

MAIN ENTRANCE

Three pairs of bronze doors guard the entrance from North Drive. The designs on all of these doors are agricultural in theme, and treat of the three principal seasons in which the soil is tilled, cultivated, and the harvest reaped. The first pair bears symbols pertaining to the activities carried on in the Spring; digging, plowing, sowing, harrowing, and the action of sun and rain. On the second pair are shown in stylized form the religious attitude of the farmer and his wife, and subjects representative of agrarian pursuits. The third set of doors depicts the harvests and man's thanksgiving for the gifts of the soil. All three sets of doors were designed and cast under the direction of Dr. Carl Milles.

NORTH PLAZA

The North Entrance of the building, facing on North Street, looks out upon a large plaza flanked by the wings of the building. Two cheek blocks, capping a railing, bear the inscriptions:

IN THE SPIRIT OF AMITY AND TOLERATION

WILLIAM PENN FOUNDED THE COLONY

OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1680-1683

THE PATRIOTISM AND FINANCIAL WISDOM OF

ROBERT MORRIS MADE POSSIBLE AMERICA'S

INDEPENDENCE, 1776-1783

The North Plaza is paved with granite flagstones, but its landscaping includes areas for shrubbery or flowers at properly spaced intervals. Two granite stairways have a common beginning in the middle of the plaza, and proceed in opposite directions by a series of steps and landings to a terrace-like platform at the center of the building. The platform and railings are also built of granite.

On the face of the support of these stairways appear symbols of various phases of the economic picture of the Commonwealth. The carving on the central wall shows the plough, sheaves of wheat, the ship, the eagle, and rampant horses—components of the Seal of the Commonwealth—and the motto of the State, "Virtue, Liberty, and Independence." On the granite blocks of the left wall are depicted, in descending order, the seasons of the year, domestic and wild animals, plant life and an Indian, and the natural resources of the earth. On the right, in corresponding position, are represented some of the activities that have grown out of these phenomena: agriculture, dairying, lumbering, and the manufacture of iron and steel.

Entrances at the east and west ends of the plaza, on a level with the stone paving, have massive bronze doors leading in to stairways by which all floors of the building may be reached.

The three bronze doors at the central entrance illustrate agriculture, mining, and manufacturing, the principal industries of Pennsylvania. Carved above the doors are these inscriptions:

RICH ARE THE BOUNTIES OF SOIL AND SUN THAT
YIELD TO HONEST LABOR ITS REWARD WITH
COMFORT AND PLENTY FOR THE HOMES OF MEN.

THE COMBINED ENERGIES OF MEN, THE WISDOM
AND GUIDANCE OF THE THOUGHTFUL MIND SHAPE
AND CROWN THE PLAN OF HUMAN DAYS.

DEEP-STORED ARE THE MINERALS OF ANCIENT
EARTH, LAID BY AS TREASURE TO PROVIDE ITS
FIRM FOUNDATIONS TO THE LIFE OF MAN.

FISHER PLAZA

From the Fisher Plaza Entrance the main business center of the building is reached. Over a pair of bronze doors is carved a maxim by William Penn:

WERE IT UNIVERSAL, WE SHOULD BE CURED OF
TWO EXTREMES, WANT AND EXCESS, AND THE
ONE WOULD SUPPLY THE OTHER AND SO
BRING BOTH NEARER TO THE MEAN.

MAIN VESTIBULE

The Main Vestibule has a beamed and coffered ceiling decorated with figures of William Penn and the Indians, and lighting fixtures of formalized design. Emblems of the Seal of the Commonwealth and symbols from the Seal of the United States have also been woven into the narrative.

Between the Main Vestibule and the Elevator Lobby there are four square marble pillars upon which is carved the story of the peoples who have made Pennsylvania: Native Indians, Swedes, Dutch, Quakers, founders of the Colony, Mennonite founders of Germantown, Scotch and Irish settlers in central and western sections, English Fathers of the country, Americans of the Revo-

lutionary Period, and a general representation of all nationalities living in Pennsylvania in the nineteenth century, and of the immigration of that period.

NORTH STREET VESTIBULE

The North Street Vestibule is considerably larger than the one at the Main Entrance. Its ceiling is elaborately decorated and on the two side walls are murals—one depicting the economic efforts of the people in building the Commonwealth, the other showing the benefits and protection offered its citizens by the Commonwealth. From the vestibule there are five steps leading down to the Elevator Lobby.

ELEVATOR LOBBY

The Elevator Lobby is a long, large room with six elevator shafts that face the main entrance. The elevator doors are made of brass and are decorated with ancient and modern coins cast in bold relief. The walls in the lobby are of dark brown Tennessee marble and the decorative scheme as a whole conforms to the general motif of Pennsylvania history.

CORRIDORS AND OFFICES

The interior walls of the first-floor corridors are constructed of dark brown Tennessee marble. The floors throughout the building are of terrazzo. Where quiet is especially desired, both walls and ceilings are constructed of acoustical plaster; acoustical tile, set in coffer design, carries out the decorative scheme indicated in each instance. Walls in the business offices are finished in plaster or panelled wood. Good light in inner rooms is assured through the utilization of 4,000 square feet of glass brick wall.

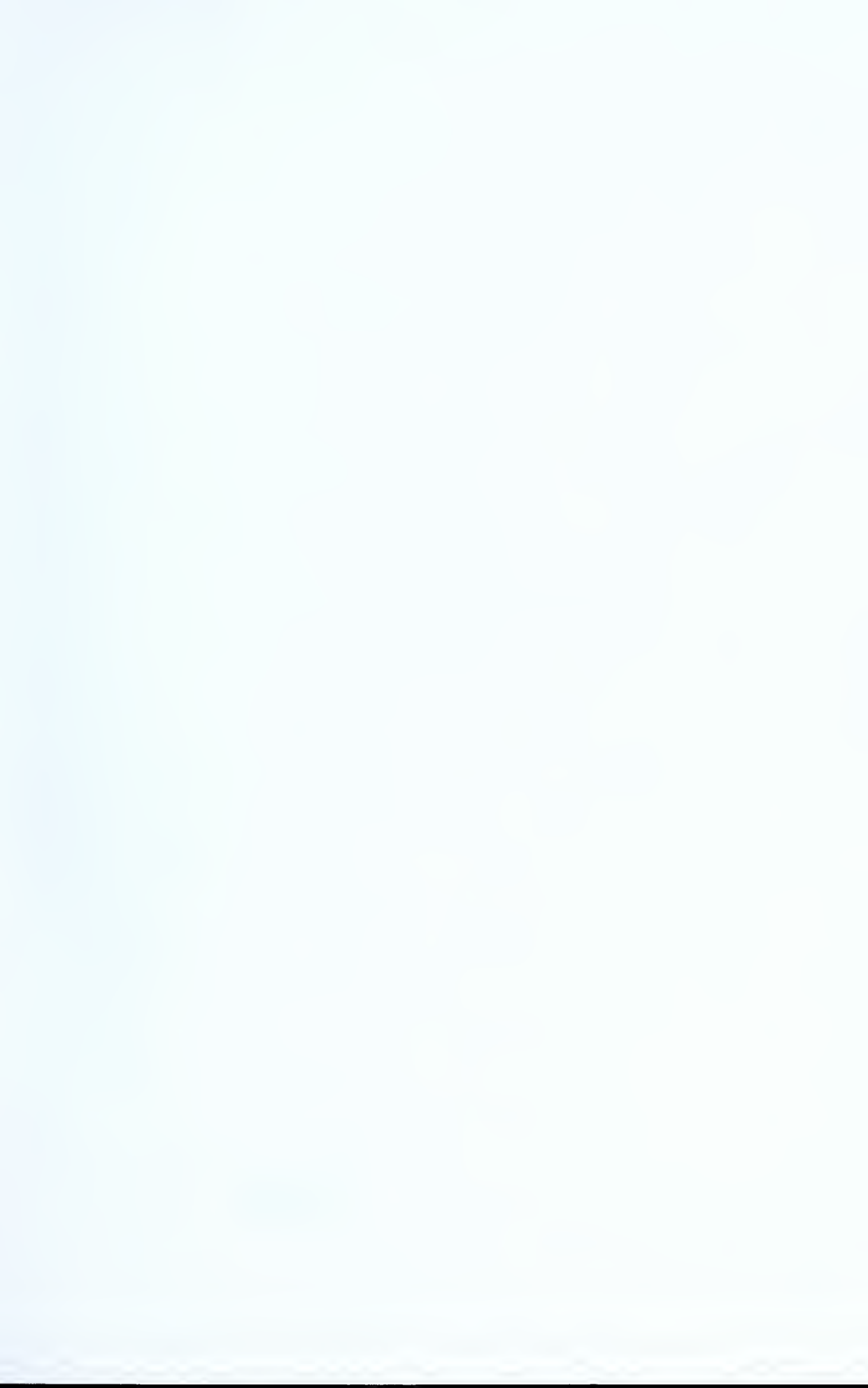
BANKING HOUSE

The wing to the left of the North Entrance houses the Department of Revenue. The banking house of this department is reached directly through revolving doorways opening from North Street. Its floor is of marble laid in ornamental design, and the

walls and ceiling are of acoustical plaster. The tellers' cages, are mounted on a marble circular counter. Glass partition bricks, twelve inches square, have been used instead of the customary iron grilles.

THE VAULT

Beneath the ground floor on the extreme eastern end of the building is a vault sixty-five by seventy-five feet in dimension. Its protecting walls are constructed of concrete thirty inches thick reinforced by inch-square steel rods. More than 400 tons of steel have been used, insuring the vault against damage by earthquake or flood. Along the steel rods in the walls is strung approximately nine miles of wire which are connected with burglar alarms in the State Capitol Building and the Harrisburg Police Station. As an additional safeguard, an insulating chemical has been inserted between the inside steel plates and the concrete. In the event that a lighted torch should be applied to this chemical, a gas would be thrown off which would extinguish the torch. A massive circular door guards the entrance to the vault. A unique feature of the corridor which extends around three sides of the vault is a series of mirrors arranged in such a way that a guard can see the entire circumference without leaving his station.



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